

MEMO

DATE: December 14, 2006

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jennifer Brost Sarnecki, AICP, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1829, sarnecki@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Addendum to the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan

BACKGROUND:

In October 2006, staff presented information on the analysis conducted as part of SCAG's compliance with the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) 23 U.S.C. et seq. The environmental staff has prepared an Addendum to the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The addendum was prepared as part of SCAG's effort to bring the 2004 RTP into compliance with the planning requirements of SAFETEA-LU. The gap analysis, or administrative modification, identifies and discusses SAFETEA-LU planning requirements that are adequately addressed in the 2004 RTP and identifies and discusses SAFETEA-LU planning requirements that may not be fully addressed as required by SAFETEA-LU.

Basis for the Addendum:

When an EIR has been certified and the project is modified or otherwise changed after certification, additional review may be necessary pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The key considerations in determining the need and appropriate type of additional CEQA review are outlined in Section 21166 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163 and 15164. In general, an Addendum is allowed when there are not substantial changes to the project or new information that would require major revisions of the EIR. Substantial changes are defined as those which "will require major revisions of the previous EIR...due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects." Further, CEQA states that an Addendum is not required to be circulated for public review.

Environmental Assessment:

SCAG conducted a programmatic environmental assessment of changes documented in the gap analysis pursuant to CEQA. SCAG found that adoption of the proposed administrative modification would not result in either new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Specifically, the proposed changes as expressed in the administrative modification are not substantial changes, and would therefore, not require major revisions to the PEIR. Further, SCAG found that the administrative modification does not significantly affect the comparison of alternatives or the potential significant impacts previously disclosed in the 2004 PEIR.

SCAG has assessed the administrative modification at the programmatic level, and found that the proposed administrative modification is consistent with the analysis, mitigation measures, and Findings of Fact contained in the 2004 RTP PEIR. Therefore, it was determined that a subsequent or supplemental EIR was not required and the SAFETEA-LU Addendum to the 2004 RTP PEIR fulfills the requirements of CEQA.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Preparation of the SAFETEA-LU Addendum to the 2004 RTP PEIR is covered under the Environmental Planning Staff work element 07-020.SCGS1.

Reviewed
by:



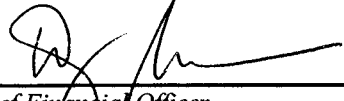
Division Manager

Reviewed
by:



Department Director

Reviewed
by:



Chief Financial Officer